

Beshear Colon Cancer Screening Proposal

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2008 Bill Established Colon Cancer Screening Program. In 2008, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 415 to establish the Kentucky Colon Cancer Advisory Committee and provided for development of a Colon Cancer Screening Program in Kentucky if funding became available.

Gov. Beshear Recommends Matching Private Funding for Screening. Gov. Steve Beshear proposes to invest \$500,000 in FY13 and \$500,000 in FY14 as a match for the same amount of funds provided by the newly organized Kentucky Cancer Foundation (KCF), a not-for-profit private foundation. This means a total of \$2 million will be spent over the biennium on colon cancer screenings.

Funds Will Be Spent on Outreach and Screenings. The funds, to be administered by the Kentucky Department of Public Health, will provide for administration, outreach, patient navigation, FIT testing and colonoscopies.

4,000 Kentuckians Will Be Screened. This program will provide access to screening in their local communities for 4,000 uninsured Kentuckians, 2,000 in each year, who would not otherwise have that opportunity. Each year, there are expected to be 1,500 average-risk persons who would receive FIT testing for screening. Another 500 would be considered high risk, defined as persons having a family history of colon cancer or who already have symptoms, but who have delayed scheduling a colonoscopy due to inability to pay. These individuals would immediately be scheduled for a colonoscopy. Of the 1,500 who receive a FIT test, about 10 percent or 150 persons would be expected to need a colonoscopy to follow up and remove polyps.

Facts About Colon Cancer

Kentucky Has the Highest Colon Cancer Incidence Rate in the Nation. Kentucky has the highest incidence rate per 100,000 people out of all 50 states (tied with North Dakota). From 2004-2008, Kentucky's incidence rate was 59.6 of every 100,000 people, compared with the U.S. average of 47.6 of every 100,000 people.

Kentucky has the 2nd Highest Colon Cancer Death Rate. Kentucky has the second highest colon and rectum cancer death rate in the U.S., with 20.7 out of every 100,000 people dying from it (tied with West Virginia)

Screening Can Prevent Colon Cancer. Colon cancer is 60 to 90 percent preventable through screening. Many people have polyps in their colon, but have no symptoms. Some polyps can turn into cancer over time. Regular screening can detect polyps, which can be removed and prevent colon cancer.